

MIDDLE SARPY CREEK LIMITED ACCESS TIMBER SALE

February 19, 2008

Location of Sale:

- Southern Land Office – Approximately 25 air miles northeast of Hardin, Montana
- Bighorn County – Section 36, T1N, R37E
- 100% Common School Trust.

Sale Volume & Estimated Value:

- The estimated sawlog volume is 1,035 tons (138 MBF) with a negotiated value of \$11,488.00 or \$11.10/ton.
- The estimated pulp volume is 896 tons with an estimated value of \$896.00
- In addition to the stumpage value, a fee of \$.40/ton for Forest Improvement will be charged for all merchantable sawlog timber harvested
- 7.5 tons/MBF is the conversion factor.

Sale & Harvest Treatments:

- The sale consists of 1 harvest unit totaling 82 acres.
- Silvicultural prescriptions include commercial thin favoring dominant and co-dominant ponderosa pine as leave trees. These leave trees would represent a variety of age and size classes.
- The sale contains no old growth.

Harvest System:

- 100% tractor

Road Construction:

- Approximately 1 mile of temporary road would be constructed to access the harvest units. Temporary roads would be reclaimed and seeded to native grass species upon completion of the sale.
- All new construction and existing roads on state land and private access roads would be constructed and/or upgraded or maintained to current BMP's.

Public Involvement & Issues:

- The Department was contacted by letter in October, 2007 outlining a proposal from Rimrock Timber for a limited access timber sale. The Department also received a letter from the lessee and surrounding landowner granting exclusive access to Rimrock Timber and the department as well as a statement in favor of the harvest proposal.
- Letters were sent to interested members of the public, resource professionals, MT Dept. of Fish Wildlife and Parks, the lessee, and the Montana Natural Heritage Program. A public notice was also published in the Big Horn County News for two consecutive weeks. No comments were received from the public. Management issues and concerns were identified by DNRC specialists and field foresters.

Issues and Mitigations:

- **Road Use/Access** - Access to the sale area is across existing roads through private property. The DNRC has a signed letter granting access to Rimrock and the Department for the purposes of log hauling and other activities associated with the proposed timber harvest. The purchaser would be responsible for all stipulations, fees and requirements of the road use agreement.
- **Grazing Lease** – The grazing lease for Section 36 T1N R37E is held by the same private land owner that access is required through. This landowner supports the project.

The Director recommends the Land Board direct the Department to sell the Middle Sarpy Creek Limited Access Timber Sale.

Middle Sarpy Creek Timber Sale Harvest Unit Map



--- Temporary Spur Roads

— Existing Roads

Harvest Unit

State Land

Map date 12/28/2007
by DNR/ELOVCP

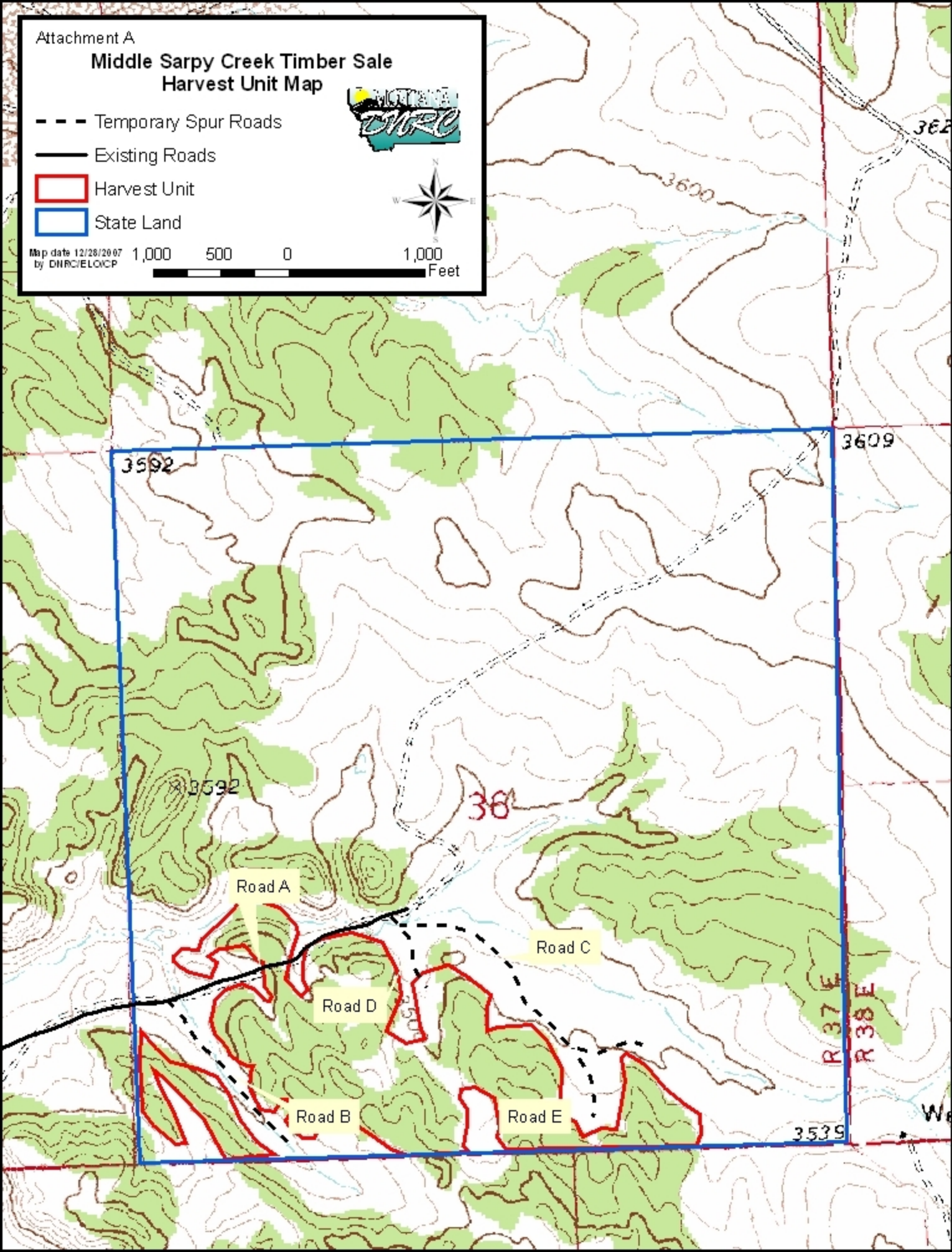
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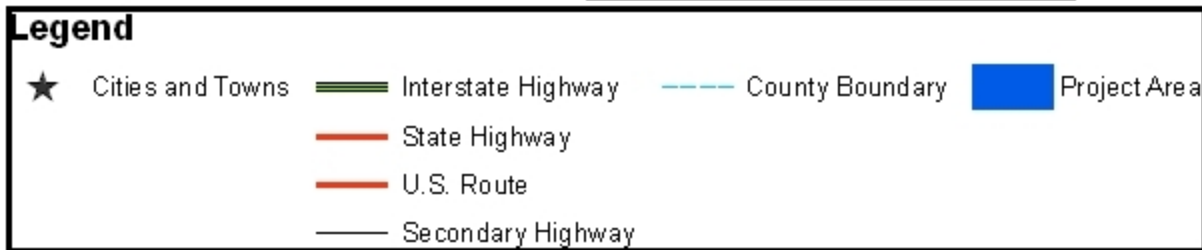
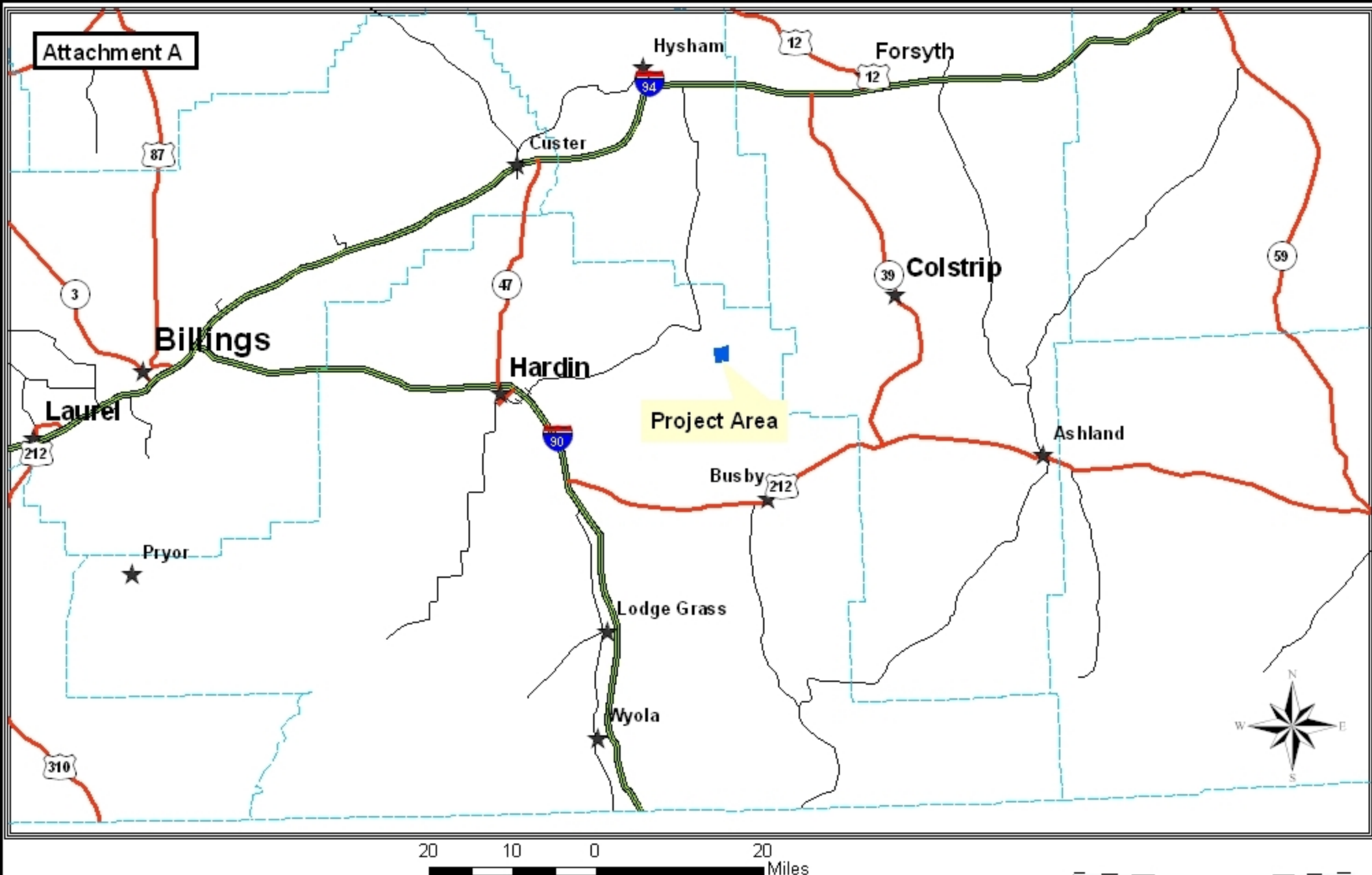
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Feet



Attachment A



Map created 12/28/2007
DNRC/ELO/CP

